

LIBRARY

RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1945

F. W. BUNTING, M.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1945

F. W. BUNTING, M.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30027792>

RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1946.

Chairman of the Council : Frank Winstanley, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of the Council : Sam. Lewis, Esq.

Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee :
E. Wainwright, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee :
T. Rimmer, Esq.

Members :

James Eden, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

James Birchall, Esq.

R. Carlisle, Esq.

John Molyneux, Esq.

R. C. Birchall, Esq.

Frederick C. Rawlinson, Esq.

Walter Smith, Esq.

Ben. Stockley, Esq.

F. Winstanley, Esq.

R. Webster, Esq.

T. Crooks, Esq.

Clerk to the Council : Geo. Walker.

Staff of the Public Health Department :

Medical Officer of Health :

F. W. Bunting, M.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

Reginald C. Haycock, A.R.S.I., A.M.Inst. B.E., A.M. Inst. H.E.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
RAINFORD.

July, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rainford Urban District Council.
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the 55th Annual Report on the health of Rainford, being the Report for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

I am glad to report that the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year.

The death rate at 11.4 per 1,000 is identical with that for England and Wales and is lower than during 1944.

The birth rate at 17.5 per 1,000, although lower than for the previous year is above the average for the previous five years.

The maternal mortality rate was nil.

The incidence of infectious disease was lower than during the previous year. Only two cases of Scarlet Fever and two of Whooping Cough were notified.

There was no cases of Diphtheria, a testimony to the efficiency of Diphtheria Immunisation in the District.

In this work Dr. S. H. Wright, of the County Staff, continued to render valuable assistance.

The County Health Visitor, Miss Melia, and Miss T. M. Ellerington also continued to give much appreciated assistance in this connection.

Dr. M. E. Cliff, who was Medical Officer of Health for the district during 1945 relinquished her appointment in March of this year, when I succeeded to her post.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the willing assistance and co-operation that I have received from the officials of the Council, particularly Mr. Haycock, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, since I have become Medical Officer of Health to this District.

I have the honour to be

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. W. BUNTING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	5,877
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1945	3,416
Population—Census, 1931	3,586
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	1,063
Rateable Value	£16,528
Product of a penny rate	£68/16/8

I.—SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area—
Mainly a residential area with houses of mixed types. Agriculture and
minor mixed industries.

II.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1945				3,416
Live births—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	58	27	31	
Illegitimate	2	1	1	
	—	—	—	
Total	60	28	32	
	—	—	—	
Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population, mid-1945				17.5
	Total	M.	F.	
Stillbirths	1	1		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				16
	Total.	M.	F.	
Deaths	39	18	21	
Death-rate per 1,000 estimate population				11.4
Deaths from puerperal causes—				
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis				Nil
Other maternal causes				Nil
Total maternal mortality				Nil
Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				Nil
Death-rate of infants under one year of age—				
All infants per 1,000 live births				83
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				86
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....				3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				1

III.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There have been no changes in the General Health Services during the year, and particulars of the various services will be found in my Report for 1940.

The Child Welfare Centre continues to be much appreciated by mothers in Rainford, and is well attended.

IV.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Water is obtained from the St. Helens Corporation by agreement, and the supply is satisfactory.

All the houses in Rainford are supplied from the mains with the exception of seven supplied by wells.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

A full account of the sewerage systems in Rainford will be found in the Annual Report for 1937.

The refuse tip at Ormskirk Road has been temporarily closed, and the football pitch on the Silver Jubilee Recreation Ground is still being used in order to level the ground.

Public Cleansing.

No alteration in the system of public cleansing has taken place during the year. Full details were given in the reports for previous years.

Salvage.

The following are the amounts of the various types of Salvage disposed of during the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Waste Paper	29 tons, 7 cwts.
Scrap Metal	Nil.
Rags	Nil.
Bones	Nil.

Total gross income from sale £121 8s. 0d.

Shops.

The Shops Act, 1934, is enforced by the County Council. The provisions of the Act, however, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences are administered by the Urban District Council. It has not been necessary to take any action during the year.

V.—SCHOOLS.

The school children in the Rainford Urban District are inspected by the School Medical Department of the Lancashire County Council, who make all necessary arrangements for the treatment and following up of defects. A School Clinic has been established at the Council Offices, Rainford, where children requiring treatment for minor ailments may be brought for treatment. The Clinic also serves as a Centre for the continued observation of children requiring medical or nursing supervision.

Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer and the teacher, and much use is made of the returns of sick children forwarded by the School Attendance Officer each week.

School Closure.

It was not found necessary to close any of the schools during the year.

School Feeding.

A Feeding Centre has been set up in Alfred Street from which dinners are supplied to all the schools in the District, and there is no doubt that these will have a beneficial effect upon the nutrition and well-being of the children. Many of the children attending Rainford schools come from a distance, and the provision of a hot substantial meal each day will be particularly valuable in the winter months.

Milk is provided by the Lancashire County Council Education Committee to children in the schools in necessitous cases, under the Milk Marketing Board's scheme.

Samples of milk delivered to each school are taken quarterly for pathological examination for tuberculosis. The samples in 1945 all proved satisfactory.

Cleanliness.

Reference was made in the Report for 1941 to the incidence of verminous infestation in school children. Cleanliness inspections still constitute an important part of the work of the School Nurse and vigorous action is taken where infestation is found.

VI.—HOUSING.

No changes have taken place with regard to housing since the last Report.

Due to increased duties, it has not been possible to carry out the normal routine inspection of houses in the District. The staff available in normal times was limited, and extra duties, such as Civil Building Licensing Work, have prohibited such inspections.

VII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Much time and attention is devoted to this important subject with a view to providing and maintaining a pure and safe milk supply. The Government have effected far-reaching changes whereby the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are made responsible for the enforcement of conditions relating to clean milk production at the dairy farms.

I have always been of the opinion that no dirty milk need be put upon the market if reasonable care is exercised on the part of the producer, and that milk of a high standard could and should be produced by every milk farmer.

On the 31st December, 1944, there were registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :

- 5 persons as cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk ;
- 13 persons as cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk ;
- 2 persons as purveyors of milk.

The approximate number of cows in the District is 150.

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection : There were no slaughter houses in operation in the District during the year.

VIII.—FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No change has occurred in the number of factories and workshops within the district since last year.

IX.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1945 the total number of notifications of infectious disease received in the department was 23.

Hospital accommodation is provided at Ormskirk by arrangement with the Ormskirk Urban District Council, and is adequate.

Scarlet Fever.

2 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year.

Whooping Cough.

3 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year.

Measles.

16 cases of measles were notified during the year, 2 less than last year.

Diphtheria.

It is most pleasing to report that no cases of diphtheria occurred in the Urban District in 1945. There can be little doubt that this very satisfactory state is attributable to the successful immunisation campaign.

It is important that the drive to secure the immunisation of all children should not be relaxed.

Treatment of Diphtheria.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is readily available for use in the event of an outbreak of diphtheria. The antitoxin is provided free of charge and is kept by the Medical Practitioners in the District.

The following is a table of notifications of infectious disease received during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1945.

Disease	Total cases at all age	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 & Over
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	16	—	1	2	1	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	23	—	1	3	2	2	11	1	—	1	1	—	1

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 1945 the number of children immunised for the first time was 50.

A very high proportion of the children living in Rainford have now been immunised. Special attention is directed towards securing the treatment of the young child, as it is amongst infants that diphtheria takes its greatest toll.

Most parents are well familiar with the Council's Scheme and are anxious to avail themselves of the facilities provided.

As soon as an infant in the Urban District attains 1 year, the mother is invited to bring it for treatment to the Child Welfare Centre.

In this work, Dr. S. N. Wright, of the County Staff, rendered valuable assistance. The County Health Visitor, Miss Melia, gave freely of her time, and her co-operation was essential and valuable. Upon Miss T. M. Ellerington fell the responsibility for making appointments and keeping records.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives the numbers of new cases of both forms of the disease, together with the deaths therefrom. The figures include all primary cases and other cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

The Scheme for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis in the administrative county is in the hands of the Lancashire County Council, who provide dispensaries, sanatoria and home visiting.

The Dispensary for Tuberculosis patients in the Rainford District is in Hardshaw Street, St. Helens.

Full co-operation exists with the Tuberculosis Officer covering the Rainford area.

Notification of tuberculosis was found to be complete and satisfactory during 1945.

